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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

FROM FRANCE

DEAR EDITOR: The following is from a letter written by Helen L. Kerrigan, a graduate of the New York City (now the City Hospital) Training School, to Mrs. Cadwalader Jones, Chairman of the School's Advisory Board:

"St. Valéry-en-Caux, France,
December 31, 1915.

" You will probably be interested to hear that I have been doing my little bit in this great war problem.

I was in Belgrade, Serbia, during the Austrian invasion just a year ago and was to all intents and purposes a prisoner for the thirteen days in which the Austrians had possession of the city.

We had a wonderful experience as our hospital was used as a field hospital and was literally filled with dead and dying all the time. Never shall I forget the awful sights. The story is only too familiar to all. I was also one of the victims of typhus.

I have been here with Dr. Fitch since July last. Work here is quite interesting. The French soldiers make ideal patients, so brave and cheerful and ready to go back to the trenches and fight for their beloved France."

M. C. J.

NEW USE FOR A KELLY PAD

DEAR EDITOR: While nursing a case of cancer, where there was excessive discharge from both bladder and bowels, the patient using cloths and sanitary pads which caused discomfort and chafing, as well as much washing of cloths and bed linen, I thought of trying a Kelly pad. I procured a surgeon's size, which is smaller than the obstetric size, and was more comfortable, relieving the patient's back from pressure. I made pads of cotton batting and cheesecloth, large squares, which I placed inside the pad. When they were wet, they were removed and burned, thus eliminating all washing and keeping the patient dry and comfortable. The results far exceeded my expectations, the patient's suffering and distress being much lessened. The pad could be used in many cases where there is continuous discharge or drainage.

District of Columbia.

C. E.

AN APPEAL TO HOURLY NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: In the hope that the hourly nurses in the United States will see the value of and have the desire to form themselves into a section of the American Nurses' Association I am making an effort to reach them with an invitation to help and to ask for their coöperation in securing material for the time devoted to Hourly Nursing on the program at the Annual Convention in New Orleans.

I ask them to answer the following questions and send their replies to me at their earliest convenience, as soon after March 1, as possible.

1. Are you going to be able to attend the convention in New Orleans?
2. Will you write a brief sketch of your work—why you took it up; how you like it; the value of it to the community; its value to your self; how long you have been engaged in it; its advantage over other lines of work for the nurse; its disadvantages by comparison to same?
3. As it is done by you in your locality has it any possibility of larger scope in the future? What is the attitude of the nurses and doctors toward hourly nursing?
4. How do you receive your calls, personally or through an organization? Do you find it necessary to combine any other work with it to add to the income? If so, what?
5. Does the income from this average fairly with private duty nursing, or a hospital position with a salary of \$900 per annum?

300 Congress Place.

ALMA E. WRIGLEY.

Pasadena, California.

A HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN IN ALABAMA

DEAR EDITOR: I wish to call your attention to the statement made on page 450 of the February JOURNAL in reference to the Wilhenford Children's Hospital Augusta, Georgia, being the only hospital in the south for the care and treatment of children.

I wish to say that the Children's Hospital, formerly called the Holy Innocent's Hospital, of Birmingham, Alabama, was founded in 1911, for the care and treatment of children and has a capacity of twenty-five beds. Therefore the Wilhenford Hospital is not the only Children's Hospital in the South.

MARIE BAWLE, *Superintendent.*

Alabama.